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April 29, 2004

His Excellency Kofi Annan
Secretary General
The United Nations
1 UN Plaza
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Secretary General:

It was a pleasure speaking with you on April 20th, prior to our April 21st Subcommittee hearing on the Oil-for-Food Program (OFF). I support your decision to appoint an independent panel and applaud your success in getting the Security Council to endorse the investigation. The panel, led by Paul Volcker, brings expertise and prestige to this important task.

The Subcommittee has had the opportunity to meet with Banque Nationale de Paris (BNP) Paribas representatives and review the September 12, 1996 Agreement for Banking Services Pursuant to Security Council Resolution 986 (1995) between the United Nations and the bank. However, in order learn who might have been involved in defrauding OFF, it is essential to follow the money. We believe important information is contained in OFF bank account records and audits, information now deemed confidential pursuant to provisions of the contract between the UN and the bank.

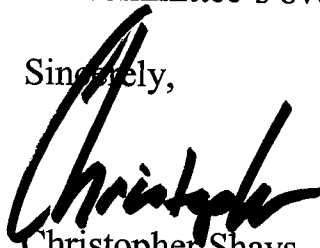
Therefore, I am writing to request you waive confidentiality and nondisclosure obligations in the agreement (Article 1.18) and authorize immediate public release of all OFF bank records.

Another important step toward greater transparency in this process would be to grant Member States access to the internal audits performed by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS). I understand these documents are normally shared only with program managers to assist in improving program operations. However, given the seriousness of the concerns about OFF, I also request you waive customary confidentiality and release those documents as well.

If you or your staff have any questions about this request, please contact Lawrence Halloran, Staff Director, or Thomas Costa, Professional Staff, at 202-225-2548.

Thank you for your attention to this request and for your assistance in the Subcommittee's oversight work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher Shays", written over the printed name.

Christopher Shays
Chairman